

Wednesday Weekly Wonders

Dear Students,

Happy Wednesday! It is hard to believe it is already Wednesday again. Highlights from this week are:

- The peak has passed and/or will remain within capacity to manage in Vermont.
- Re-entry plans are being developed across all core missions: clinical care, education & research.
- Testing guidelines are being established.

What we know:

- **Co2023:** 2nd week of Medical Neuroscience is underway and students are attempting to conquer the spinal cord, brainstem and cranial nerves! Most sessions have recordings to accompany them. Live optional “office hour” sessions are held almost every day. Student feedback is being obtained through discussion boards and feedback forums.
 - o Options for DIV and the Public Health Project course in the Fall are being discussed.
- **Co2022:** Students are enrolled in a remote combined bridge (Anesthesia, Palliative Care and Global Health) course from 4/27/2020 to 5/6/2020.
 - o **Step 1:** 100% pass rate for those students who have taken the exam! All students are allowed (and encouraged) to continue in the clerkship curriculum regardless of Step 1 status. Students who still need to take the exam at the start of clinical activities will be able to seek permission from the Committee on Advancement to take the exam at the next available date, between clerkships or at the end of the clerkship year.
- **Co2021:** Students are currently enrolled in non-clinical courses that count toward their graduation required credits.
 - o Start of clinical activities are currently scheduled for June 1, 2020.
 - o The required End of Clerkship Clinical Skills Exam (EOC CSE) which was cancelled in March/April is being modified to be consistent with anticipated public health and safety guidelines. The Clinical Simulation Lab will be in touch with additional information and scheduling options.
 - o Aways: AAMC has further extended the suspension to access to the Visiting Student Application Service until May 11, 2020 to allow for the *Current Practices of Student Movement Across Institutions for the Class of 2021* Work Group to have time to consider the impact of COVID-19 on away rotations and to develop recommendations to address those concerns.
 - o [Emergency Medicine](#) and [OB/GYN](#) have provided guidelines for the 2021 residency application cycle.
- **Co2020:** Commencement will be held online on Sunday, May 17th at 3:00 pm. Commencement speakers include [Dr. Joia Mukherjee](#), Chief Medical Officer of Partners in Health, the non-profit group working with the state of Massachusetts on the Community Tracing Collaborative for COVID-19, Dean Page, President Garimella and other guests to celebrate our graduates and their many accomplishments!
 - o The Commencement Ceremony will be livestreamed on the Larner College of Medicine YouTube Channel and the livestream link will be shared on med.uvm.edu as we get closer to the ceremony date.

- **Curriculum Changes:** We anticipate some additional changes to course work and graduation requirements. We will share any Medical Curriculum Committee approved changes when they occur.
- **National Exams:** USMLE posted new updates on April 23 and April 27 which has created additional stress and anxiety for medical students nationally. Please see the [USMLE Announcements](#) link also located on the [Medical Student COVID-19 Information](#) webpage for the most up to date information. My advice: remember that all medical students are in the same situation and know that medical education leaders are advocating on behalf of students to ensure that any disruption in USMLE availability does not negatively impact a student's academic progression or residency application.
- **Town Halls:** Town Halls have been held for the LCOM community and all medical school classes.
 - o LCOM Alumni Town Hall is being planned.
- **Community Service:** Opportunities available.
 - o Check out [LCOMCares Service Corp](#) webpage for more information.
- **Stay Home Stay Safe:** Vermont's current status is optimistic however increased operations will be gradual and carefully monitored. Out-of-state travel remains a concern and self-isolation for 14 days is still expected when coming to Vermont from out of state. Physical distancing, proper hand hygiene and use of masks will likely be necessary for the foreseeable future.
- **Clinical Environment:**
 - o UVMMMC: 5 COVID Positives - 3 PUI
 - o 8 patients at Essex Fairgrounds under the care of the VT National Guard
 - o 33 COVID Positive employees - still household transmission; no new positive employees since the weekend
 - o Increased ED and OR volumes
- **Research:**
 - o Congratulations to co2021 students Jordan Munger and Jennifer Holland who are the first recipients of a one-year LCOM Medical Student Research Fellowship!
 - o Essential research related to COVID-19 continues.
 - o Re-entry plans are being developed for research activities.

What we don't yet know:

- **Confirmed date of return to clinical activities:** We continue to work hard to determine the optimal time to return students to the clinical learning environment. Public health and safety considerations, clinical environments and educational quality are all being factored into that decision. A Medical Education Contingency Planning Task Force was developed to look at best, worst and most likely case scenarios.
- **Return to Vermont:** Students should continue to plan on a 14-day self-isolation upon return to Vermont prior to their first face to face educational/clinical activities.
- **USMLE/Prometrics**
 - o Who will receive a cancellation from Prometric for Step 1 or Step 2 CK.
 - o If Williston's Prometric location will deliver USMLE exams prior to the expiration of the Vermont Stay Home, Stay Safe order on May 15th.
 - o When or if additional Prometric exam slots will open up for a given time period (we recommend checking Prometric regularly as slots in a preferred timeframe may become available).
 - o If there will be any changes to the residency application timeline

We encourage you to stay engaged in your medical education, seek help and support as needed, and stay safe, healthy and connected to your friends and family. We miss you and remain grateful to you for your patience and understanding during this stressful and challenging time.

With gratitude,
Christa Zehle and our amazing OMSE team!